

Lee, Lily

From: Daniel Watman <dan@viainternational.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2022 5:53 PM
To: Tijuana-Transboundary-EIS
Subject: Please delay construction of the Tijuana River Border Barrier

I, Dan Watman, coordinator/founder of the Binational Friendship Garden of Native Plants implore that construction of the Tijuana River Border Barrier be delayed in order to:

1. First pass NEPA standards before implementation
2. Allow for further analysis on potential environmental and humanitarian impacts of the project
3. Further consultation and collaboration with prominent Mexican and US NGOs working on water quality issues in our region

Justification for these requests:

- As it stands, this project will thwart the \$300 million dollar investment for a project that has already been started and would reduce significantly water contamination issues in the region. [Info here](#)
- If the flood gates are lifted during the rainy season as intended, the bridge infrastructure that is part of the current plan will still slow the river flow, having negative impact upstream and causing flooding in Tijuana.
- If the gates malfunction, the impact could be catastrophic flooding major urban areas in Tijuana and possibly damaging the wetland ecosystem on both sides of the border
- Many prominent environmental NGOs in Mexico and the United States in this region and nation wide on both sides were not consulted or included in the decision process that will impact our shared ecosystem and overall quality of living for the region.

--

Dan Watman
Borderlands Coordinator
Escuela Amistad, Director
Via International | ***Connecting People across Borders***
619.335.3176
Mex +52.664.592.2803